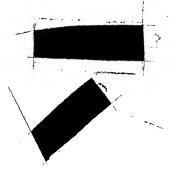
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19 July 1955



NEWCOL WENT MORE

Director of Training

SUBJUCT:

Cortain observations concerning the Clark Committee Report on CIA.

- 1. Pursuant to your request, made during the Director's meeting with the ADs yesterday, I am attempting in this memorandum to set down on paper the gist of certain observations which I have made to the top staff of the DD/P area concerning the Clark Committee Report. Although this has all been kept on an oral basis, I briefed the staff and requested them to brief others dominard in the chain of command, for the express purpose of putting to rost nowe exaggerated and rather alarmist notions and remove which were gaining currency as the result of the press handling of the Clark Committee Report.
- 2. The Clark Committee findings, conclusions and recommendations, taken collectively and in the whole, are by no means as adverse and derogatory as some newspaper reporters and columnists would lead one to believe. Most, if not all, of the adversely critical naturial in the secret reports were included in the published report; but such of the favorable and laudatory material in the secret reports was omitted from the published report. Some writers who are apparently unfriendly to the Agency have seized upon portions of the published material and have enlarged upon it, quoted passegus out of context, and otherwise aspaged to create the impression that the Agency was found agregiously wanting and taken heavily to task by the Clark Countities. On the basis of the very thorough enalysis which has been made of the purties of the report dealing with the Clandestine Services, their personnel and operations. I would say that there are no driticisms of such an exactgerated or apparently bestile character that we cannot live with them, and that there are in fact some very favorable findings and conclusions which tend to give the report a considerable degree of balance. Two or three of the recommendations having to do with organization will presmably not be found fessible or otherwise acceptable, especially, those which are regarded as calling for retrograde steps. (We know from actual experience that a complete separation of secret intelligence sctivities from operations in the political action field does not produce any panacea -- when we had it that way we were still critically chort of intelligence concerning Seviet capabilities and intentions. This is the inadequacy most pointedly criticized in the report, and the Agency, of course, makes no claim that we have achieved a satisfactory degree of success in this regard.)

## SECRET

- 2 -

- mount of satisfaction and encouragement is the finding and conclusion which substantially vindicates the Agency with regard to the McCarthy-type charges of Communist infiltration and subversive design. The Clark Committee goes about as far as could ever be expected of any investigating committee in the direction of giving the Agency a clean bill of health. In almost equally important finding of a favorable character is that which certifies to our apparent regularity as regards the expenditure of unvouchered funds. In fact, if the report contained as other favorable elements than those relating to these two extremely critical points, we would have much to be thankful for, since it is in proclamly these areas that the rost serious charges have been hurled against the Agency and any appreciable measure of culpability would be most devastating. In order to appreciate fully the significance of these findings, the following points should be borne in mind:
  - a. Twice within a very short space of time the Clandestins Services have been thoroughly investigated and in each case although the approach and metivation were different we have come off clean and whole;
  - h. Although the Declittle Consittee was suspected by some of being friendly and generally well-disposed toward the Agency, there is no doubt that the group of hard-working individuals who made up that consittee called their shots as they saw them, and would have considered it their duty to the Freedent and to the public to point out all imadequaties, and worse, which they might have found:
  - c. Whatever else may be said of the outlook and orientation of the Clark Committee, certainly not one, repect 30 CSE, has ever suggested that its purpose was to "whitewash" the Agency if anything a contrary impression was created by certain statements and actions on the part of the Chairman which became natters of public knowledge, wis., the published report of his beviag called upon and solicited advice from Senstor McCarthy, and the more or less public solicitation of any and all adverse information concerning CIA and its porsonnel; and
  - d. The fact that all enemies of the Agency and people with special exes to grind were given full opportunity by the Clark Committee to be heard, with the result that just about every "deed oat" that could be thrown wee, in fact, cut loose at us but without appreciable adverse effect in so far as this can be determined from the contents of the majort.

It is submitted that under the circumstances the personnel of this Agency are entitled to feel very resemmed and, in fact, proud to belong to an organisation which has so successfully withstood the said test of these unprecedented investigations. I consider that se are entitled to held our heads high and to indules enresives in a modest amount of self-songrabulation. Cartainly there is so longer any reason for the personnel of this agency to feel that the Agency is under the gum or required to offer apologies. (It is my personal opinion that the time has now arrived when this Agency can and should go ever onto the attack against its irresponsible critics. This is, of course, a matter which must be handled with the greatest of care, and subordinate officials should not undertake any freewheeling initiative in this regard -- but in well-coloulated wave I believe that we should let it be understood that the "open esason" on CIA is closed and that it is no longer a Cashiomeble or profitable persuit to sline and at our people\_7

(Signed) FARRY 6. WISHER

Deputy Director (Plane)

oc: DCI

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